

THEN THERE WAS ONE: BIG COURT VICTORY FOR ATLANTIC YARDS: P. 11

1978 30 years 2008

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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## MOPED GANGS OF NEW YORK

### Brooklyn is home to two pedal-pushing mobs

By Ben Muessegger

The Brooklyn Paper

You could say they're born to be mild. North Brooklyn's two moped gangs — yes, there are rival groups of men and women who sputter around the borough on the rickety pedal-and-gas-powered motorbikes — have pulled the retro rides out of the trash heap and brought them to the streets.

In doing so, they're more than just getting around town — they're resurrecting the 1970s-era pit-sized two-wheelers that are commonplace in Europe but never merged with the American mainstream.

Two self-described gangs — the Orphans in Greenpoint and Mission 23 in Bushwick — spend long hours tinkering on their low-speed vehicles, which are powered by the same engines as lawnmowers and weed-whackers and require constant repairs to keep running.

"Most of the time, we spend three or four hours fixing everything before we go for a ride," said Ryan Dine, 24, a Greenpoint resident and member of the Orphans, who often cruise en masse to destinations as far as Coney Island.

"These things are all from the late '70s, so they require a lot of maintenance — but working See **MOPEDS** on page 5



### What's a moped?

Few people below the age of 30 would remember the moped "craze" of the 1970s, but driven by fuel shortages, some urbanites flocked to low-powered, small-sized motorbikes from European makers like Puch and Peugeot. Equipped with two-stroke engines — not unlike lawnmowers — mopeds run on a mixture of gasoline and motor oil. Once running, mopeds can average about 70 miles per gallon and hit speeds of 25 miles per hour.

By Ben Muessegger

## MAMA IKEA!

### Top sales prove Red Hook BJ's would also be the best

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

The Red Hook Ikea that opened last summer has already become the Swedish home furnishings company's best location on the continent, Borough President Markowitz announced on Monday.

"It's their top-selling store in North America," the Beep boasted during an otherwise somber discussion of retail and

industrial business at Borough Hall.

Ikea officials would not confirm Markowitz's cheerleading, citing company policy not to reveal the performance of individual stores.

But the success of the blue-and-gold giant would fit with long-repeated accounts that the Target on Atlantic Avenue and Costco on Third Avenue are

See **IKEA** on page 2

## CROWNED!

### High-stepper our new 'Miss'

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

There she is — Miss Brooklyn, Kelle Sheridan.

The pride of Manhattan Beach was handed the title as the new queen of Kings on Sunday, propelled to the title thanks to her Irish jig and her performance in a nerve-racking "lifestyle and fitness" competition. That's the swimsuit contest, of course.

"I was the least comfortable with it, but I don't know anyone who likes See **PAGEANT** on page 2



Kelle Sheridan of Manhattan Beach wow'd the judges at this year's Miss Brooklyn pageant.

## Emmes: Co-op boycott Is-not-rael

Sorry to tell my colleagues in the media, but Tuesday night's meeting of the Park Slope Food Co-op did not turn into the anti-Israel paroxysm you all wanted.

Last week, I became the lone journalist (in the nation, it appeared) who reported the *emmes*, use the Yiddish word for truth, that the famously liberal, member's-only supermarket on Union Street was NOT — I repeat, not — considering a ban on Israeli-



By Gersh Kuntzman

made or -grown products.

All this talk of a ban — whipped up first by the Jewish Forward and then repeated (like a blood libel?) around the world by bloggers who seem to regard

the 16,000-member market as some kind of anti-Israel horrid rather than a great place for homemade tomatoes — stemmed from a single stray comment by a woman at last month's meeting.

"I don't know whether or not we carry Israeli products," said the woman, who identified herself as Hima, "but I propose that we no longer carry them."

Sorry, but that's now how it works at America's largest, member-run food cooperative. Stray comments at a Park

Slope Food Co-op general meeting don't become Co-op law until there has been extensive debate, discussion and more mudslinging than at an organic composting facility.

And that's just to get the item on the AGENDA for an upcoming meeting!

You should have seen the battle over selling beer! An earlier proposal to sell meat nearly ended in murder of humans, not cattle!

Alas, the above fact didn't matter to

America's blogosphere, which ran with the story that the Co-op was considering a blockade of Israel, from which it buys some persimmons and red peppers.

"Park Slope Food Coop Bans Israeli Food," read the headline on New York Magazine's Grub Street blog.

"Food Fight: Brooklyn Co-op Mulls Israel Ban," read the headline in the original Forward article that set off the explosion of coverage.

See **BOYCOTT** on page 5

## Whole-y foods!

### Gowanus grocery is back in action

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

The long-delayed Whole Foods supermarket along the fabled Gowanus Canal showed some signs of life this month, as developers filed state paperwork that raised expectations that the controversial project will actually be built.

The upscale grocer submitted an environmental application on Feb. 9 to build a 77,000-square-foot store with a three-level, 414-car garage on the wetlands that make up its three-acre tract near the corner of Third Avenue and Third Street.

Originally, Whole Foods intended to open its first Brooklyn store in 2008, but the project has been beset by problems, including the discovery of toxins in the soil.

In an effort to kickstart construction, company executives searched last fall for an outside developer to partner with them, but no one has signed on yet.

The chief complaint about Whole Foods' blueprints has been the size of the parking lot, which residents fear will swamp nearby streets with thousands of extra cars per day.

"It could be a great thing, but they seem hung up on a totally suburban model," said Eric McClure, a member of Park Slope Neighbors. McClure said the group "remains opposed to the vast number of parking spaces they're projecting."

However, the appeal of the popular supermarket continues to stir interest among its devoted shoppers about the fate of the embattled location next to the Gowanus Canal.

The paperwork that Whole Foods quietly filed with the state Department of Environmental Conservation triggered a public comment period that ends on March 6.

## OSCAR 'WIRE'

### Sloper's statuette connection

By Dustin Seplov

for The Brooklyn Paper

The Academy Awards were taking place on Hollywood Boulevard on Sunday night, but the real action was on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope.

That's where Jim Moore, part of the team behind the Oscar-winning documentary, "Man on Wire," watched the Big Show.

Moore was at the bar at Cafe Steinhof — where he spent the night being congratulated for the 35-year-old photos of Philippe Petit's wondrous tightrope walk between the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

"It was really great to be part of the adventure in 1974, and it was a very touching experience on Sunday night," said Moore.

"When the movie won, we were all tinkled pink, it was an amazing moment."

The photographer is a Steinbof regular, so "everybody knew he was in the crowd" — that and the fact that he was very emotional, said the restaurant's manager Jorge Boette. "He was holding back tears and it was contagious."

Director James Marsh's film could not have won acclaim were it not for Moore's

photographs from his days as the aerialist's "right-hand man."

Moore's 40 photos helped the film convey the madness of walking on a three-quarter inch tightrope 1,350 feet above ground.

The scene was a lot less mad in the California native and former Manhattanite's adopted hometown.

"I found a beautiful place here in Park Slope," said Moore. "It's very neighborly, very comfortable, I like it here."



'WIRE' ROOM: Photos of Philippe Petit taken by Park Sloper Jim Moore form the basis of the Oscar-winning film about the tightrope walker's Twin Towers act.

## Armory rec center may open — in May



The Park Slope Armory recreation center has been ready for a year.

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Read it and growl, Park Slope: The opening of the lavishly restored armory on Eighth Avenue as a recreation center will take just a little bit longer.

But the good news is that the Department of Homeless Services has finally announced that it had come to terms with the Prospect Park YMCA to operate the former armory for its members and area schoolkids.

But there's a catch: The announcement begins a public review process that will likely push back the opening date to May, said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6.

"But the end is near," Hammer-

man said. "I'm so relieved."

Despite Hammerman's optimism, Park Slopers can be forgiven for thinking that they've heard it all before.

The \$16-million armory restoration was completed in 2007, and city officials had substantial trouble finding an operator to turn the 114-year-old building, which spans nearly an entire block between 14th and 15th streets and Seventh and Eighth avenues, into an adult fitness center and sports facility that will host teen and after-school activities, a day camp, and community meetings.

The YMCA was designated in March, 2008, but the deal still wasn't completed by December. Stakeholders have blamed the de-

lays on the Department of Homeless Services, which will maintain a 70-bed women's shelter in the building. The agency did push back the bidding process at least twice.

The Brooklyn Paper reported. After the Y was designated as the winning bidder, negotiations were slow going. The Y has said it will cost \$500,000 a year to operate the facility — but the city contract greatly limits the non-profit's ability to generate revenue.

"The devil in these negotiations has been the details," said one insider who requested anonymity. "The contract sets aside a lot of the day for the Department of Education to use the armory as a gym. It gets down to trying See **ARMORY** on page 2



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## DeBlasio's 'Bill' of fare Local diner has become his office

A lot of cool things can be found in the city's campaign finance reports: For example, Councilman Sinichu Forder spends a lot of money on cellphones and prefers to leave his car in parking garages. Councilman Vince Gentile spends a good portion of money from his campaign on donations to other people's campaigns.

And we all know that when Borough President Markowitz wants to bestow gifts on his re-election team, he heads straight for Jacques Torres chocolates in DUMBO. So when the last batch of filings were posted by the Campaign Finance Board, The Politicrasher scoured them like they were charred puns after a breakfast fundraiser. And that's where we discovered that Councilman Bill DeBlasio has turned his local diner into a campaign office. That's right — the man who wants to be your next Public Advocate spent most of December in a booth at the Purity Diner on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, about five blocks from his home.

Over an amazing 22-day period, DeBlasio had nine "meetings" at the diner, including two on Dec. 9 and three (all three meals!) on Dec. 15. Could this guy love diners as much as The Politicrasher? Or was he just a cheap campaign hack like The Politicrasher? Or was it both? I called DeBlasio and he suggested we talk about it... at the diner.



Councilman Bill DeBlasio uses the Purity Diner in Park Slope as his office.

He also explained that the Purity Diner was a logical, practical meeting place for a guy who quickly shifted from his campaign for borough president to public advocate after the term limits debacle. "We needed to set up a finance team and a campaign team quickly, and everyone lives in or near Park Slope," he said. "It's sunny, but this diner is the epicenter." Plus, my campaign treasurer and my [finance] compliance person love that I come to the diner instead of Late July, he added. (Point of information: There are no charges at Late July by any chance going back as far as the city has been keeping records — though Herman Badillo once dropped \$2,100 at Le Cirque).

## Monty: Let's make a deal!

By Evan Gardner  
for The Brooklyn Paper

There are now nine "For rent" signs flying on Montague Street between Clinton Street and the Promenade right now — but the news may not be all bad.

Just this week, Jennifer Convertibles, the Spicy Pickle sandwich shop, and the Washington Mutual branch at the corner of Henry Street went belly up, but at least one expert says the Brooklyn Heights commercial spine may still be strong.

Stephen Palmese, who deals in commercial spaces from Fort Greene to Brooklyn Heights at the Massey Knudsen realty firm, thinks the neighborhood will see locally based "men-and-pop" shops replace the big national chain stores — a reversal of a longtime, and oft-bemoaned, trend. One example is Armando's, the beloved restaurant



A sign of the times on Montague Street.

the first indicator of the trend to home-grown enterprises and away from national chains like Spicy Pickle, the Denver-based chain that took over, however briefly, the Armando's site. As Montague Street's notoriously high rents "loosen up" in the coming year, Palmese said, "unique spaces" will start to come back to the commercial thoroughfare. "Prices will be set back by 20 to 30 percent." That said, Brooklyn Heights residents see the "For rent" signs and worry that the nation's economic malaise has finally infected their neighborhood. "It's really an indication of the times," said John O'Malley, a self-described "longtime resident" of Montague Street. Chelsea Mauldin, who manages the Montague Street BID, agreed. "Obviously, this is not a good time," said Mauldin. "Montague Street is... not completely immune to the economic climate."

## PAGEANT

Continued from page 1 Before dazzling spectators, the 22-year-old impressed the Long Island University crowd in the talent portion of the pageant. Her performance was fraught with last-minute tension when contest officials told her she had to rearrange her top routine because she would not be allowed to gambol around the entire stage. No biggie for a true Miss Brooklyn.



## ARMORY...

Continued from page 1 details, like what soda machines the Y can put in there and who will pay for the lightbulbs. Stuff like that." But Hannerman said that the city's announcement of a March 9 hearing on the contract means that all the details have been worked out and are ready for a public vetting.

The outlines of that contract, obtained by The Brooklyn Paper, show that the Y would run the building for 10 years and pay rent of \$20,000 a year or 20 percent of the facility's net revenue, whichever is greater. The non-profit is expected to generate revenue through donations, sponsorships, events and membership fees, but has been concerned that there will not be enough money to cover all its expenses.

"In this current economic climate, any [operator] would be concerned about the risks," said Tony Kickney, chair of the armory committee of the Park Slope Civic Council. "It is breathtaking how long this has taken, but it's because many of the players didn't realize how daunting it would be for a concessionaire. Whoever runs it must make some money so they're not caught losing money."

## IKEA...

Continued from page 1 the king of their respective hills, too. And it bolsters the argument from business groups and real-estate experts that the demand for shopping outlets in Brooklyn is not being met. In 2006, a study from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce found that booming Brooklyn had less shopping space per capita than sluggish cities like Detroit and Pittsburgh. "Brooklyn has been so desperately under-retailed for so long that when these big retailers finally get a location here, they're a huge success," said Ken Freeman, a senior sales director for Massey Knakal. "The combination of the population density and the above-average income levels probably explains the success."

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

## DYKER HEIGHTS

### 20-pound lobster freed!

#### Vegan drives the crustacean to New Hampshire

**By Gersh Kuntzman**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Leave it to Larry the vegan to save Craig the Crustacean.  
Three days after an aborted rescue mission to return a 20-pound lobster to the icy Atlantic, vegan baker Larry Fleming picked up the 100-plus-year-old marmoset mollusk from Haku Japanese restaurant in Dyker Heights on Friday and drove through the night to get the big guy to New Hampshire.

The next morning two zoologists — who are also volunteers with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — drove Craig across the border to Maine on Saturday and deposited him into the ocean.  
“They didn’t just dump him in the bay,” said Fleming, who lives in Maine, but owns the Manhattan bakeshop, Little Lad’s. “They took an hour or so to acclimate him to the water.”

Fleming, who was involved in an earlier PETA “rescue” of George, another 20-pounder who lived briefly at City Crab restaurant, said



Craig says farewell to a younger lobster with a much shorter life expectancy.

Craig was even bigger. “He was much bigger than George,” Fleming said. “No wonder there were media people waiting for us on Saturday at the ocean.” Gina Ng, owner of Haku, said she had originally wanted

to keep Craig on display, but worried for his health, so she called in the animal-rights group.  
“It’s a little sad to say goodbye,” she said. “But I think he will be much happier in the ocean.”

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

### Could it be ‘Mod-tague’ St?

#### Second try at pre-fab plan in historic Heights

**By Ben Muessig**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Montague Street is about to go boom — and we’re not talking about bowl cuts and British rock bands.  
The owner of 116 Montague St. is considering dropping three stories of modular, prefabricated housing atop his building — a “construction” project that would take just three days.  
By assembling the steel and concrete addition of office and depositing it atop the one-story building, which currently houses a Sleepy’s mattress shop, the developer could shorten the construction process from 16 months to about 72 hours, according to architect John Newman.

“Rather than put up a construction awning and close the sidewalk for a year or 16 months, we could close Montague Street ... and put the thing up in two or three lifts,” said Newman.  
The developer is considering what he said is a more expensive construction strategy to curtail the bothers of building on busy Montague Street — like traffic, lack of parking, and lack of room for deliveries — Newman said.  
Once completed, the six-unit addition — which was originally proposed as a modern design that had been scrapped in order to gain approval by the Landmarks Preservation Commission — will consist of a red brick facade, painted metal cornices, and cast stone lintels that will match buildings on the stretch in height and appearance, and won’t look like it was constructed from modular pieces, the architect said.

The builder behind the plan discussed his proposal with Community Board 2’s Transportation Committee last week — reviving talk of the unconventional construction strategy.

“There are questions about whether



Architect John Newman's renderings of a modern design were rejected.

constructing this building using modular units built off-site would be less of an inconvenience to Montague Street in the long run than building it traditionally — and there seems to be a fair amount of consensus that it would,” said Community Board 2 District Manager Rob Perris.  
Frank Rio, the owner of the property between Henry and Hicks streets, did not return calls by the time of publication.  
It also remains uncertain whether the builder will receive permission from various city agencies that will allow him to move forward with his modular plan.

But neighborhood groups are eager about the discussion — even if they remain skeptical about the plans.  
“I’m concerned any time there is any disruption to our businesses being able to operate in a normal way, but I do appreciate that the owner is making a really good faith effort to reach out to the community and reach out to businesses,” said Chelsea Mauldin, executive director of the Montague Street Business Improvement District.

## GREENPOINT

### Clang! Magic tosses a brick

#### Johnson-funded condo building files for bankruptcy

**By Ben Muessig**  
The Brooklyn Paper

The economic collapse has claimed another victim — a Greenpoint condo project partly funded by former NBA great Magic Johnson has gone bankrupt.  
The Lakers legend backed the Viridian — a glassy 150-unit building on Green Street — by loaning the builders \$12.3 million through the Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund.

But the developers, whose plans called for a gym, pool, sauna, billiards room, virtual golf, and a library, filed for bankruptcy in the Eastern District Court of New York on Feb. 5 — before residents moved in.

Now Magic wants his money. “The Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund” is certainly focused on recouping the amount that it had lent,” said Steve Sugarman, a spokesman for the fund, which claims to be “the country’s largest private equity fund focused solely on the revitalization of America’s densely populated, ethnically diverse communities.”  
Sugarman added that the case will likely go to bankruptcy court,



Mean street: The owners of the Viridian, on Green Street, have filed for bankruptcy protection.

where Johnson’s company will seek to reacquire its loan.  
In hopes of generating some fast cash from their vacant building, which was recently appraised at \$39 million, the bankrupt developers, the 110 Green Street Corporation, are hustling to turn their unsold condos into rental units, Craig’s reported.

But they may not get the chance. The building itself, which is between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street, is now on the market for \$65 million through the brokerage Marcus and Millichap, according to Curbed, a real estate blog.  
Calls to the developer, Marcus and Millichap, and brokers responsible for the property were not returned.  
The Viridian hit the market in June — just months before the economic crash toppled the real-estate world. Some condos in the building are already in contract, but of the 49 units offered on the builders’ Web site, at least 33 units remain on the market. Prices range from one-bedroom condos starting at \$430,000 to three-bedroom units going for as much as \$810,000.

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# Cops nab two after F'n mugs

## 84TH PRECINCT

**Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO**  
Boorum Hill—Downtown  
Two aggressive thugs attempted to mug two people on the F train on Feb. 20, but both were nabbed before they could steal anything.

In the first incident, the perps boarded a Coney Island-bound train at 11:15 am at the Jay Street station. Shortly after boarding, one of the muggers approached the first victim, pointed at his phone, and demanded that he hand it over.

"I want that's—," said the first perp, repeatedly reaching at his waistband to suggest that he was armed.

When the victim refused to comply, the hoodlums got off at Bergen Street, where they approached another passenger, grabbed him by the chest, and demanded money. Frightened, the passenger fled the station and alerted the cops.

Both thugs were arrested in the station.

## Carjack

Another crook pretending to have a gun in his waistband held up a motorist on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street on Feb. 21, and drove off with \$155.

The victim told cops that he was sitting in his car at 4 pm when the perp approached and said, "I will shoot you — give me your money."

The victim handed over the cash, and the mugger drove off in a gas-guzzling SUV.

## Little criminal

A diminutive thief tore a phone from a woman's hand on Bond Street on Feb. 18.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

## 78TH PRECINCT

### Park Slope

#### Mirror, mirror

At least two more Mercedes had their side mirrors swiped last week — the second straight week when this peculiar crime, against the most fancy of German sedans, has made an appearance in the Police Blotter.

In the latest rash, a thief removed the mirrors from a man's E-320 sometime between Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, and stole four beds, mattresses and all.

The owner of the apartment, located in the public housing complex near Gold and Sands streets, came home on Feb. 19, after a week-long absence, to find his bedroom set and all four of his family's beds missing.

In addition, the ground floor apartment's window guards were missing, and there was noticeable damage to the window frames.

#### Broken in

Someone smashed a car window and stole electronics on Feb. 22.

The victim returned at noon to his car, which he had parked on the corner of Water and New Dock streets in DUMBO, to find his passenger-side window shattered.

Inside, he found that the thief had stolen two iPods, a satellite-guided map device, and \$1,500 — **Evan Gardner**

#### Drive-thru

A thief nabbed a man's "historical" six-foot iron driveway gate on a Garfield Place home last week.

The perp made off with the \$8,000 gate sometime between Feb. 11 and Feb. 18, police reported. The 66-year-old man's driveway, at Polhemus Place, is now gone and bare.

#### Bikes bikes

A hand stole an unchained bike on Sixth Avenue on Feb. 17 — and got away with a wallet and cellphone, too.

The victim left the bike, valued at \$900, on Seventh Street, but he did cancel his credit cards before the thief had the chance to use them. But the crook is enjoying some of the bike accessories, including lights and panniers.

#### Lace chase

A thug broke into a Sackett Street apartment and got away with thousands in cash and prizes on Feb. 17.

The perp bashed through the front door of the building, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, sometime between 6:20 and 9:15 pm, when the resident was not at home.

The victim returned to find her Apple laptop, Canon camera, \$75 and a \$1,000 necklace gone in 60 seconds.

— **Emilia Brock**

## 88TH PRECINCT

### Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

#### Stop and go

A purse-snatcher mugged a woman on Carlton Avenue on Feb. 22, but a civilian intervened and wrestled back

the stolen bag.

The crook asked the woman if she had any money at 8 pm, and when she said "yes," he responded by pushing her to the ground at the corner of Greene Avenue and stealing her pocketbook.

Moments later, a mystery man stopped the fleeing thief, ripped the satchel from his hands and returned it to the victim.

#### Cuffin' crooks

Police arrested two men who had attacked and mugged another man on Lafayette Avenue on Feb. 17, but one suspect eluded capture.

The fracas began at the corner of Clermont Avenue at 7:47 pm when the trioka gangied up on the victim, 27. They punched him repeatedly, knocked him to the pavement and stole his iPhone.

Officers later arrested an 18- and 19-year-old suspected of the bruising assault.

#### Game time

A crook's South Oxford Street apartment was turned upside down by a plunderer on Feb. 16.

The woman, 27, told police, that neither she nor her boyfriend was in the flat, between Dsah and Lafayette avenues, from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm.

When she returned to the ranch, she found the front door broken and her belongings scattered around the floor.

Further inspection revealed that a laptop and video game system were gone.

#### Bad night sleep

A burglar raided a Clinton Avenue house while the residents were in the Land of Nod on Feb. 18.

One of the victims, a 38-year-old man, said he hit the hay at 12:05 am and awoke at 6:30 am to observe that a thief apparently entered his house between Willowby and DeKalb avenues through a rear window and stole purses, a backpack, an iPhone, several credit cards and \$100.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

## 76TH PRECINCT

### Carroll Gardens

#### Cobble Hill-Red Hook

#### Power-less

Reigns of steel several power tools from a commercial van parked on Baltic Street on Feb. 14.

The plumbing company's Ford was parked from 12:30 to 2:00 pm between Court and Smith streets. While the employee was doing what plumbers do — like laying some pipe on St. Valentine's Day — someone broke his boss's heart by nicking several drills and screw guns from the vehicle.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

#### Jewel heist

A burglar perched a trove of jewelry from a Clinton Street apartment on Feb. 18 after shattering through a window.

The victim told police she was not home from 4 am to 2:45 pm. Upon returning to the dwelling between Fourth Place and Lauger Street, she said she discovered that her wedding band, watch, gold and diamond necklaces and a bracelet were gone, as well as \$88.

#### Mug plug

A trio of hoodlums wallowed a teen on Baltic Street on Feb. 11, but the group's attempt to rob him failed.

One of the villains put the 17-year-old victim in a choke hold at 8:30 am and the other crooks forced him to the ground between Smith and Hoyt streets. One rifled his pockets, but did not take anything before fleeing.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

## 90TH PRECINCT

### Williamsburg-Bushwick

#### Southside mug

A masked gunman and his lookout held up a 22-year-old woman as she tried to enter friend's South Eighth Street apartment on Feb. 20.

The armed crook confronted the victim as she rang

the doorbell of the apartment — which is between Driggs Avenue and Robbing Street — at around 11:35 pm.

"Give me your stuff," the thug demanded as he pressed a black handgun to the victim's head.

The victim forked over her BlackBerry, iPod, debit card, IDs and keys.

#### Powers struggle

Thieves ransacked a Powers Street apartment on Feb. 19 and snatched electronics valued at nearly \$7,000.

The crooks pushed their way through the front door of the residence between 9:30 am and 7 pm while the victim was out. Once inside the apartment, which is between Manhattan and Graham avenues, the burglars grabbed a flat-screen TV, a laptop, a digital camera, a computer monitor and two iPods.

#### Laptops burgled

Burglars snatched electronics and jewelry from a Manhattan Avenue apartment on Feb. 20.

The thieves forced their way through the front door and pilfered the apartment — which is between Meserole and Scholer streets — escaping with laptops and necklace while the 31-year-old resident was in the bathroom.

— **Ben Muessig**

## 94TH PRECINCT

### Greenpoint and Williamsburg

#### Drive-by mug

A burglar raided a Clinton Avenue house while the residents were in the Land of Nod on Feb. 18.

One of the victims, a 38-year-old man, said he hit the hay at 12:05 am and awoke at 6:30 am to observe that a thief apparently entered his house between Willowby and DeKalb avenues through a rear window and stole purses, a backpack, an iPhone, several credit cards and \$100.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

#### Bottle service

An argumentative assailant shattered a beer bottle across a 24-year-old's face in Feb. 15 dispute.

The attack occurred at around 3 am near the corner of Manhattan and Driggs avenues after the perp made a no-so-polite comment about the predictions of the victim's girlfriend, cops said.

The assault left the victim with a deep laceration

— **Emily Levin**

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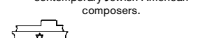
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— **Emily Levin**

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# The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

## Smartmom gets smarter every day

### FAMILY CALENDAR



It's a twist: It's time once again for "The Wizard of Oz," March 8, at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

**SAT. FEB. 28**  
10 am: BAMkids Film Festival. Seven different film programs (separate admissions), \$11 (55 children). Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Marks Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org.  
11 am and 2 pm: Short musical plays by the Paper Bag Players, \$15. Kumbia Theater at Long Island University 1 University Plaza at Willsborough Street in Downtown, (718) 488-1624, www.brooklynlu.edu/kumbiatheater.  
Noon: "Faint Ringgold" — Paints Crown Heights. An inspirational look at 12 cultures that have settled in Crown Heights. Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 725-4400, www.brooklynkids.org.  
Noon and 2 pm: Uncle Rock performs. 57 BAM Cafe, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org.  
Noon-4 pm: Book Fair. Storytelling at 12 pm and 2 pm. Free. \$5 (37 Hick St. between Poplar and Middle streets in Brooklyn Heights).  
12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." \$8 (57 kids). Puppetworks 1338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, puppetworks.org.  
1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon).

**SUN. MARCH 1**  
10 am: BAMkids Film Festival. See Saturday, Feb. 28.  
Noon and 2 pm: Jazz-A-Ma-Taz: Goes Green. 57 BAM Cafe, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org.  
12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." Saturday, Feb. 28.  
1 pm: Nature Crafts. Saturday, Feb. 28.  
1-4 pm: Bell House Rocks. Bourneville, 145 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, \$10. The Bell House, 145 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 451-6510, www.thebellhouse.org.  
West, March 4  
10:30 am: Andy's Story. Andy Latties plays music, sings and reads. Vox Pop 1022 Cortelyou Rd. at Stratford Road in Flatbush, (718) 940-2084, www.voxpopnet.net.

To list your event, visit www.brooklynpaper.com

Even though Teen Spirit is just a few months shy of 18 and the Oh So Feisty One is just weeks away from her 12th birthday, Smartmom knows that she still has a lot to learn about being a mom.

Funny. You'd think she'd have mastered momdom by now. But just about every day she does something or other that makes her wonder if she knows anything at all.

During the winter break, Smartmom took OSFO and three girlfriends to the Grand Cascades at Crystal Springs in New Jersey, a hotel/pastry with an incredible Biosphere pool.

Four girls and Smartmom shared one hotel room.

Right there, Smartmom wondered if she was some kind of lunatic. She prayed that she'd be able to sleep comfortably; that all the girls would get along; and there would be no fights or wild behavior.

Scratch that last one. Of course there would be fights and wild behavior: they're teens for Buddha's sake.

Nonetheless, Smartmom prayed that no one would get hurt going down the three-



By Louise Crawford

story slide at the Biosphere pool: no one would hit her head on the ceiling while jumping on the bed; and that there'd be no food allergies.

On the second morning, one of OSFO's friends woke up sick. Smartmom knew right away that something was up when this usually effusive and enthusiastic girl looked droopy and sad.

First, Smartmom wondered if the girl was homesick, then she realized that she could barely talk and had a fever.

Tonight was, Smartmom didn't have her trusty earthermometer or any Advil.

No problem, Smartmom thought: I'll just run out to the Met Food (oops, that's the Seventh Avenue bank in Park Slope).

In a panic, Smartmom

went down to the lobby, but the hotel shop was closed and the woman at the front desk said she didn't have any Advil.

William Shakespeare, Smartmom spotted an attractive young mother

checking in. "Do you have any chewable Motrin or Tylenol with you?"

"Yes, I do," the nice woman replied.

Relieved, Smartmom felt like kissing her. She figured it might take a while for the attractive, and obviously capable, woman with the fancy luggage and ski gear to track down the pills, but within seconds, she had a plastic bag in her hands with grape-flavored chewable Motrin, Benadryl and Tylenol Cold Medicine.

It was right on top in her suitcase.

"And here's some for later," she said handing Smartmom three more pills.

Boy, was Smartmom impressed. Now that's a real organized, smart mom (Dumb Editor note: I wonder if she can write on a deadline).

Needless to say, Smartmom also felt embarrassed and a little ashamed. Why didn't she think to bring a first-aid kit? She was, after all, in charge of the health and well-being of four 11-year-old girls and anything can happen.

Walking back to the room cradling six purple Motrin in her hand, Smartmom vowed to create a really cool first aid kit when she got back to Brooklyn.

This was going to be the first aid kit to end all first aid kits. Smartmom would buy bandages, gauze roll, tape, knee and elbow bandages, anti-itch ointment and Benadryl, hand gel, wipes, eye wash, a first aid guide, an instant cold pack, tweezers. She'd even throw in a package of Ricola cough drops and a can of Progresso chicken noodle soup.

Smartmom, like that peppy, super-well-equipped and cheerful auntie from her season, would be set for any and every eventuality. Just like that smart mom in the lobby.

Later that afternoon — after hours swimming in the Biosphere pool — OSFO came up to the room limping. The Oh-So-Limpy-One pointed to her big toe and walked slowly to the bed. Gri-

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## MOPEES...

Continued from page 1

on them is half of the fun," he said.

There's a good-sports rivalry between the 12 Orphans and the 10 Mission 23 members, but the moped crews claim they are easy riders — not Hell's Angels.

Unlike the biker gangs that have long been linked to violence, noise, leather and, let's be honest, methamphetamine, Brooklyn's mild-mannered mopeders insist they are law abiding.

But that doesn't mean they're slow-pokes.

Many mopeders convert their "stock" bikes into custom rides, kitting out the vehicles — which average about 70 miles per gallon — with larger cylinders, carburetors and exhaust systems, that allow the bikes to reach speeds of 50 miles per hour.

Even though the gangs are more like social clubs than criminal organizations, that doesn't mean that police aren't a problem.

"Cops never know what a moped is — or what the law is — but they never want to be told anything," said Peter D'Addo, 25, of Bushwick

and the gang Mission 23. D'Addo carries a printout from the Department of Motor Vehicles Web site in his wallet to prove that his moped doesn't require a special motorcycle license or insurance — which are the very reasons why many moped riders turn towards the anarchy of Vespa.

and the gang Mission 23.

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"I wanted to have more mobility than the subway and I got tired of biking to parties and showing up soaked in sweat — but I wanted something cheap," said Mission 23 member and Bushwick resident Alan Gamboa.

Moped manufacturers stopped making the machines decades ago, and used vehicles can range from \$50 for a broken beater to more than \$1,000 for a Magnum Limited.

The vehicles might not be popular with cops — but their

old school looks are a blast from the past for many par-

ty.

"Most people get really pumped when they see me on a moped," said Greenpoint resident Jason Schymick, 30, of Mission 23. "People say, 'I haven't seen one of those for 30 years,' and I tell them, 'This thing is 30 years old, so maybe it's the one you saw.'"

Though they're popular with pedestrians, aggressive drivers, mopeders and potheads can back a moped rider from the

(orher) — both gangs are one-third women vehicle.

But hard-core moped riders say they are always comfortable behind the handlebars of their underized long-

"It doesn't really feel unsafe to me. It feels just as safe as a bicycle. You're just going faster," said Due, who in April is planning to open the Orphanage Moped Shop, the city's first moped emporium, on Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint.

Riders of bigger bikes like Harley-Davidsons — say that moped riders are putting their lives on the line every time they get onto their minuscule machines.

"Being on such a tiny-wheeled machine is not very conducive to one's longevity — and with the way the taxi cabs drive, you might as well have a target on your back if you ride a moped," said Tom Smith, of Motorcycle Works on Carroll Street in Carroll Gardens.

But even though Smith considers the members of the Orphans and Mission 23 to be risking their lives, he respects their bravado.

"Gang is not the right word for those guys, but they are kind of outlawish," he said. "They definitely go by the bang of a different drummer."

and the gang Mission 23.

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## BOYCOTT...

Continued from page 1

Only the New York Post seems to have gotten the story right by doing what it does best — taking the grain of truth and calling Assemblyman Dov Hikind to get angry about it.

"Ban Israel! Bid Mushrooms to B'klyn Food Fight," said the Post headline — accurate, of course, because the Post created the "food fight" itself.

Like any "decent" reporter, I'd heard about Smith's comments at the January meeting and knew there was a great story here. But a few phone calls and a little shoe leather revealed that Hikind did not do the necessary paperwork to gather "Israel ban" on the agenda for Tuesday night's February meeting.

Oh, and there's paperwork!

The agenda item on "How to Develop an Institutions Alliance for the General Meeting" is two pages, single-spaced. Then the submission form for said agenda item requires an essay.

That's not to say that the word "Israel" was not matted at the meeting. Two members spoke about the supposed "ban": One woman, an "original" member from 1973, objected to even talk of a boycott, even though she celebrated the Co-op's history of such activism for "worthy" causes like lettuce and grape growers.

And Rabbi Andy Bachman, also a Co-op member, said he wouldn't support a ban on Israel produce, but would relish a Co-op debate over it.

"The idea of being in a community means

accepting the responsibility of debating the values of that community," he said.

And that was that.

The remainder of the "open forum" session consisted of the Co-op's bread-and-butter: a request to be given only one make-up shift for missing a scheduled work slot instead of two, a suggestion that there be a super-express lane for customers with just five items or less, a hope that the Co-op could open at 7 am instead of 8 am, and a question about whether it is time for the always-cramped supermarket to cap its membership.

And there was a long discussion about whether the store and its members are biased towards minorities (we are, of course) and what we can do about it (it involves sensitivity training, of course).

This is not to say that talk of an Israel ban won't come up again.

After all, such a ban would find support in the aisles at the Food Co-op, where plenty of members think Israel's battle with rocket-launching Gaza militants is evidence that the Jewish state is a violent thing.

There are others who think Israel's treatment of its Arab population is the equivalent of Apartheid.

And there are others, of course, who think the Co-op is a supermarket that should focus on what it does best: selling low-cost organic produce to a diverse collection of Brooklynites, from Muslims to orthodox Jews to atheists to vegans.

And for now, at least, that produce includes persimmons from Israel.



The Orphans hit the mean streets of Greenpoint.

## OUR OPINION

# Bring big boxes D'town

**B**orough President Markowitz is known as a cheerleader — but this week, he had real reason to wave his pom-poms: In just six months, the Ikea furniture store in Red Hook has already emerged as the best-performing location of the chain's 47 North American outlets.

The report is good news for Brooklyn for several reasons. For one, shoppers are finally getting access to the same low-cost goods as other Americans.

And secondly, hard-fought negotiations with Ikea before, during and after construction ensured that the busiest store in North America isn't like Ikea's less-successful locations: massive windowless malls standing in the middle of concrete parking lot dead zones.

Noting the success of Ikea Red Hook, other developers, including the would-be savior of Coney Island, Joe Sitt, are salivating over bringing more big box stores, or even a megastore, to the neighborhood. Sitt has said he wants to bring a BJ's Wholesale Club to a waterfront

site he owns next to Ikea.

There is no question that Brooklynites will flock to such a location, but we do not believe that big box retail is the best course for the remaining open land along Red Hook's waterfront.

We want to see big box retail in Brooklyn, but we'd like it in a place that is both more accessible and can boost existing retailers. That place, unequivocally, is Downtown Brooklyn.

So we reiterate our call for a Brooklyn Wal-Mart — on or near the Fulton Street Mall.

Every overture Wal-Mart has made to New York has been accompanied by the predictable (and lamentable) hue and cry from city officials and their labor union enablers that Wal-Mart is antithetical to city life.

But this is a myth.

There's no question that Brooklyn shoppers want such stores. The few discounters, like Ikea, that circumscribed the waterfront around New York City have done very well. The Target at the Bruce Ratner-owned Atlantic Terminal

is reportedly that chain's busiest location. The Fulton Mall draws 100,000 shoppers a day. The new Trader Joe's at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street in Cobble Hill is a retail juggernaut, too.

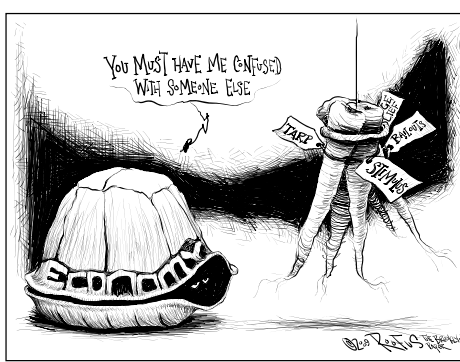
A 2006 study by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce found that Brooklyn had less retail space per capita than sluggish cities like Detroit. That study is even more relevant today, given the downturn in the economy.

Too many Brooklynites are spending their money at chain stores on Long Island or in New Jersey. Those who need the discounts the most can't afford to travel, just stay home and pay more.

Opponents will say that a Downtown Wal-Mart would bring too much traffic, but no area is better suited than Downtown to handle it. Not only is there ample subway service through the area, but on weekends, when most driving customers would be shopping, there's a bit more room for cars.

So don't dump on Red Hook. Downtown is the place for big box retail.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



## LETTERS

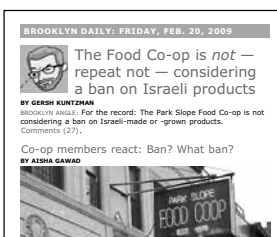
# Hear, o Israel: Co-op 'ban' has 'em talking

To the editor,

Congrats to Gersh Kuntzman for his responsible reporting on the "controversy" at the Park Slope Food Co-op ("The Food Co-op is NOT — repeat not — considering a ban on Israeli products," online, Feb. 20).

As a 24-year member of the Co-op and a former member of its Agenda Committee, I can tell you this: every member has the right to *standing* on the agenda for the monthly general meeting. The role of the Agenda Committee is to make sure that the proposer of every item, even wacky ideas, gets his/her opportunity to present it at a general meeting, the primary governance body of the Co-op. The "rules" people adhere to were developed to ensure fairness and open discussion.

If "Hima" wishes her idea to boycott Israeli products to become an agenda item, she would fill out the agenda item form with her contact info and the exact wording she would like to see on the agenda. When the agenda item comes up at a subsequent general meeting, the members who attend that meeting can vote for or against what over Hima proposes.



Gersh's story on the Food Co-op, as it appeared online. That's right — 27 comments and counting!

However, it's been my experience that anything like a boycott would need to be passed by a referendum made by the entire Co-op, which takes precedence over the decision of a general meeting. It's also been my experience that boycotts based on politics fail. So, maybe six or eight months after Hima proposed her boycott (assuming she does), it would probably fail to win the approval of the membership.

It's a bit messy, but it's called democracy, and it's alive and well at the Park Slope Food Co-op.

Dorothy Siegel, Cobble Hill

To the editor,

Sometimes dangers to America really can be revealed by looking beneath a rotting leaf of cabbage.

Park Slope is a trendy, upscale Brooklyn neighborhood, predominantly comprised of beautiful brownstone homes. With a few refreshing exceptions, it is inhabited by androgynous white "progressives." They are smart, poised and elitist, with a love of dogs being their only apparent redeeming quality. Oh, yes, they have been neighbors for over 30 years.

Over the years, the Park Slope Food Co-op has become a glutinous meeting hall, where its 15,000 lonely angry women and emaciated males mince through the aisles, convincing themselves that they are the enlightened elite of their scorned America and its antiquated values.

Virtually all of the Park Slope Food Co-op members voted for Barack Hussein Obama. Like their presidential Messiah, they call the Islamist terrorist murder

ward. That story was filled with no facts and no true details, and was the equivalent of yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater.

It's doubly embarrassing to me as a Jew because, let's face facts, anti-Semitism exists. But lousy stories like that one in the Forward just make it harder to fight the real stuff when it really comes up.

Jack Szwarcgold, Boerum Hill

To the editor,

To economically punish Israel, to economically punish Jews, for having dared to defend their nation from years of vicious bombardment of innocent civilians by Hamas criminals is ridiculously insane on its face.

When Israel defends herself and her people from murderers, there is this sudden wailing that "injustice." Where is similar mourning and groaning about Israeli dead at the hands of vicious gangsters parading themselves as "liberators" while they hold their female family members in bondage under threat (frequently carried out) to "honor kill" of their own sisters, cousins and daughters?

Why the deafening silence about Daniel Pearl's murder along with the numerous beheadings and murders of innocents: the daily dose of homicide bombings, not only in Gaza and Israel, but in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere?

The disgusting selective "outrage" exhibited by a proposal to ban Israel anything at all is the ultimate in cynicism and exploitive propaganda spoon-fed to putative "do-gooders" who are so easily gulled by those who would like nothing better than to see

America, and the entire world, mean under the yoke of a reversion to Seventh-Century savagery.

Wake up! Western Civilization, including America, is under attack in precisely the same way as it was by Nazi/Fascist/Communist threats. Propaganda focused against our allies is intended to undermine the world's resolve to survive. It always starts with the proposal of a ban on Israeli products seen as "progressive" by befuddled well-intentioned. But the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Bear in mind — cancer starts with one diseased cell that, unchecked, results in catastrophe.

Lorraine Stone, Park Slope

To the editor,

Gersh Kuntzman seems to be the only reporter capable of getting this story right (actually, it's a "non" story because nothing is actually happening at the Co-op regarding Israel).

What concerns me, though, is that such talk is going on in other food co-ops in Seattle and Ann Arbor. Are we looking at the rise of anti-Semitism as a reflection of the downturn in the economy?

Riva Rosenfield, Park Slope

To the editor,

I agree with your editorial ("Support free speech! Feb. 21). It is disappointing to learn about Councilmember and Councilwoman candidate David Yassky is teaming up with the Municipal Art Society to make it more difficult for newspapers to survive. Newboxes on streets take up minimal space

while providing easy access for ordinary citizens to newspapers offering all shades of opinion and news of the day or week.

They also play a role in the ongoing circulation battles between daily newspapers, which are all competing for our attention.

It is the neighborhood weekly newspaper like The Brooklyn Paper which provide real coverage of local community news stories usually overlooked by other media.

In the marketplace of ideas, let us hope there continues to be room for The Brooklyn Paper. You have remained independent, willing to take on all comers, including powerful developers with unlimited access to millions along with elected officials.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, NY

**Have a beer!**

To the editor,

So, "the city's open-container law allows cops to write summonses for any drinking that's done in view of the public, even if the drinking itself is done on private property." ("Beer Man" Feb. 21).

By that definition, police should ticket restaurants with sidewalk tables and even those with front windows. Mysteriously, they don't.

Are there still people in this day and age who find the sight of people (gasp!) consuming alcohol to be so shocking it has to be banned by law? Isn't it time this archaic law was overturned?

Kados to Kimber Vanly for carrying enough about personal freedom to follow through on the event though he wasn't successful in getting the authorities to consider the case on the merits.

Chris Sorochin, Farmingdale, NY

**Send a letter**

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

# If you receive care at New York Methodist Hospital, there's something you should know

**Your health could depend on the number of patients for which your RN is responsible.**

**Recent scientific studies have found that:**

- High caseloads for nurses can put patients at risk. The likelihood of a patient dying increases 31% if a nurse cares for eight patients instead of four.\*
- 24% of unanticipated patient deaths and permanent loss of function are related to inadequate numbers of nurses. \*\*
- Pressure sores, pneumonia, and postoperative and urinary tract infections were found to be significantly lower when registered nurse staffing was higher. \*\*\*

\*Journal of the American Medical Association (2002).  
\*\* Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (2002).  
\*\*\* American Nurses Association (January 1997).

**Help us to ensure quality care.**

**Contact Mark Mundy, New York Methodist Hospital President and CEO, at 718-780-3301 or mmundy@nym.org. Tell him to increase the number of RNs caring for patients at New York Methodist.**

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A message from the New York Methodist RNs and the New York State Nurses Association.



# GO BROOKLYN

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 28, 2009



The Brooklyn Paper / Jason A. Lurie



The Brooklyn Paper / Jason A. Lurie

## Flavors to savor

You don't need a plane ride to get a taste of South Asia

By Heather Holland and Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Oscars are over, but the excitement of the "Slammy Millionaire" sweepstakes — or even Jackson Heights — to satisfy your South Asian obsession. Just head to Coney Island Avenue in Ditmas Park for a close encounter with the subcontinent.

Other parts of the neighborhood might be known for their charming Victorian manors, but south of Beverly Road, the wide boulevard turns into Little Pakistan. But with blocks of restaurants, bakeries, Bollywood movie stores and fabric bazaars, the only question is how little is it?

You could recite the Ramayana faster than you could explore this scruffy street (OK, that's an ancient Hindu poem, but you get the picture).

### ① Vindaloo wonderland

Start this crawl with an empty belly and head straight for Madina Restaurant at the corner of Beverly Road and Coney Island Avenue.

The authentic pan-Indian and Pakistani fare puts Manhattan's East Sixth Street restaurant row to shame. Just ask the cabbies who frequently park in front of this 24-hour spot, which always has several meat and vegetarian entrees ready to serve.

The bill won't hit you where it hurts, so frugal patrons will have plenty of rupees left over for the rest of the night. A semi-spicy portion of chana masala, a classic chickpea dish, with a piping hot naan, costs only \$5.

Madina Restaurant (563 Coney Island Ave. at Beverly Road, (718) 469-3535) Open 24 hours every day.



### ② They're so sari

Bismillah Fabrics is the immigrants' equivalent of a pioneer's general store on the frontier. It carries just about every product an expatriate could need in urban America.

The inventory is stocked with a wide array of women's and children's saris, the latest blockbuster flicks on Bollywood DVD, and head-bobbing sounds on CD. There's also a selection of art with an Islamic motif, pictures frames, jewelry and many more odds-and-ends.

Bismillah Fabrics (719 Coney Island Ave., at Cortelyou Road (718) 826-8831) Open 11 am-midnight every day.



The Brooklyn Paper / Jason A. Lurie

Spice road: (Top left) Begum Hsain shows off the delights at Madina Restaurant. (Above) Fozia Zafar, owner of Bismillah Fabrics Wholesale, sells lushly colored saris from India. (At left) Khadija Chaudhry sells sweets at Narela Bakery.

### ③ Murray for Bollywood

With India cranking out more than 800 films per year (take that Hollywood!) it could be either a dream come true or torture to try and watch every song-and-dance extravaganza.

Posters from the latest new releases, such as the caper "Woodstock Village" and the Tamil hit "Chajjini," adorn Jhankar Video's facade and, inside, many of those 800 annual productions are available.

Jhankar Video (793 Coney Island Ave., between Cortelyou and Dorchester roads, (718) 282-0303) Open 2-11 pm every day.

### ④ Rah for Rahim

The set-up of this Pakistani grocer is simple — the butcher's in the back, the pre-paid international calling cards are in the front and culinary excitement is all between.

With a plentiful selection of exotic spices, it's one of the main outposts for home cooks trying to perfect their recipes for lamb biryani or chana masala.

If those bold plans go awry, this bodega has a wall of instant, near-foolproof Pakistani meals, including those by National, Shan, and, our favorite, Lariza.

Rahim Grocery (1076 Coney Island Ave. at Foster Avenue, (718) 421-0848)

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**DINING**

## He's the 'Top'

Park Slope has a new Top Chef. Mark Simmons, the curly-haired cook who won over fans after a strong showing on the Bravo cooking show last year, just took a job at Get Fresh Table and Market on Fifth Avenue.

The chef told The Brooklyn Paper that he hopes to turn the eatery — which serves fresh-cooked fare in a sit-down space as well as pre-prepared meals for take-out — into a destination for locals.

"Our goal is definitely to focus on organic and local food — and that suits me because that's how I grew up in New Zealand," said Simmons.

"It's very natural to me and it's fulfilling to be doing something that I believe in," he said. But it hasn't been easy for the Kiwi cook to transition between the fast-paced TV show and preparing repeatable meals — like braised pork chop with kidney bean sauce (\$12 per serving) and squash risotto with white wine, organic butter and Parmesan cheese (\$11).

"I'm learning how to take the organic ingredients and pre-prepare them so they're at their optimum when people get home," he said.

Get Fresh Table and Market (370 Fifth Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (718) 360-8469). — Ben Muesig

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**MUSIC**

## Dawson peak

Kimya Dawson's simply constructed folk-rock songs imbued the "Juno" soundtrack with a child-like sense of wonder. Now a mother (her daughter is named Panda — no, really), the former Moldy Peaches singer will bring her playful sound to Club Europa on March 10.

And Panda has obviously exerted her influence. Now, Dawson sings about drinking smoothies and how they made the fetus "go wild" in her belly. Some songs even feature giggles and gurgles.

Dawson's music has always sounded offbeat. In her songs, drums beat randomly and cymbals chime unexpectedly. The guitar also sounds off key — but it's definitely in key with her sugary and innocent style.

In other words, she's Dan Zanes crossed with the Violent Femmes.

Her new album, "Alphabutt," has the same sparkle and charm of her previous hits, and adults will appreciate Dawson's delightful ditties as much as the kids will.

Kimya Dawson at Club Europa (98 Meserole Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-2322) March 10, 7 pm. Tickets: \$12. For info, visit [www.europalive.net](http://www.europalive.net). — Emilia Brock

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**MUSIC**

## Oh, lord!

Dan Zanes has gone Bob Dylan on us: he's now a born again zealot.

Every track on Zanes' new album, "The Welcome Table," is about God. The preaching is heavy-handed. There are more references to Jesus's redemptive power than at some church suppers. There are even some tracks that are merely passages of the Bible being sung.

But before you say, "Oy, vey!" the good news is that the disc may be the former Del Fuegos frontman's best kids album to date.

Contradiction? No. Like Bob Dylan's much-maligned "Shot of Love," which came out during the singer's "religious period," Zanes' new album features his best singing and production since he gave up his rock and roll career.

The man found God — and, Jesus, this album cooks. The title track, which is one of two previously released songs, is a beautiful and respectful Negro spiritual. And "Jesus on the Mainline" may be singing to the choir, but if the congregation is tapping its toe, who is this atheist to complain?

Dan Zanes's "The Welcome Table" goes on sale on Feb. 27 and will be available at Music Matters (413 Seventh Ave. at 13th Street in Park Slope, (718) 369-7087) and other fine stores. For info, visit [www.danzanes.com](http://www.danzanes.com). — Trey Dooley





**BROOKLYN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE**


# Male Choir of St. Petersburg

Vadim Afanasiev, Artistic Director

**Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 8pm**

www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org or 718-951-4500 (Tues - Sat, 1pm-6pm)  
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**BANISHED CHILDREN OF EVE**

A NOVEL OF CIVIL WAR NEW YORK

A BOOK TALK BY  
AUTHOR PETER QUINN

The Historic Chapel at Green-Wood

**Sunday, March 8, 2009-1:00 PM**

**NEW YORK 1863—A GREAT AMERICAN CITY IN CRISIS**

Join acclaimed author **Peter Quinn** as he discusses his historical novel **Banished Children of Eve**, which won the 1995 American Book Award. Set amid the 1863 New York City draft riots, **Banished Children** combines Quinn's lifelong interests in New York City, Irish history and immigration, and the Civil War, weaving together the lives of an Irish-American hustler, a Yankee stockbroker, a mulatto actress and her minstrel lover, and leading figures of the time.

Many of the characters in Quinn's book are interred at Green-Wood Cemetery. A trolley tour with Green-Wood's historian Jeff Richman to the gravesites of William "Bill the Butcher" Poole, Horace Greeley, General Thomas Meagher and others will follow the book talk, reading and signing.

The event is **FREE** (suggested donation \$5). The trolley tour is \$20 / \$10 for Historic Fund members. Space is limited. Please call 718.768.7300 for reservations.

**SPECIAL OFFER:** Join The Green-Wood Historic Fund at the Friend & Family \$50 level & receive one **FREE trolley tour ticket** (a \$20 value) in addition to standard membership benefits.

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# WHERE TO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### SATURDAY February 28

**Silent gal**  
In the time of big budget monstrosities walking off with all the Oscar gold, it's fitting to remember a simple film like the Silent Film Era. To celebrate this golden age, check out "The Extra Girl," a classic Mack Sennett story about a small-town girl (played by the incomparable Mabel Normand) who goes to Hollywood to hit the big time (and you know that story). Better still, the screening features a live piano accompaniment.

**In the 'Bag'**  
In these dark, cold days, many people ask us, "What about the children?" This week, we have the answer: The Paper Bag Players are back with a new, interactive show for kids called, "Make a Little Room for Me!" From its speedy bike race to a friendly alligator (is there any other kind!) to the paint-splattered finale, the 50-year-old troupe never disappoints.

11 am and 2 pm, Kumble Theater at Long Island University (1 University Pl., near the intersection of Flatbush and DeKalb avenues, (718) 488-1624)

### SUNDAY March 1

**Silent gal**  
In the time of big budget monstrosities walking off with all the Oscar gold, it's fitting to remember a simple film like the Silent Film Era. To celebrate this golden age, check out "The Extra Girl," a classic Mack Sennett story about a small-town girl (played by the incomparable Mabel Normand) who goes to Hollywood to hit the big time (and you know that story). Better still, the screening features a live piano accompaniment.

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1:30 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Eastern Parkway at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100). Free.

### TUESDAY March 3

**They robot**  
We're not about to tell you what it means, but City Tech "entertainment technology" professor Adrienne Wortzel has reconfigured robotic toys — including, naturally, a Tickle Me Elmo doll — to perform military maneuvers. She says it's about "the tragic consequences of imperialism (and) blind obedience," but we think it just looks cool.

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7:30 pm, Light Industry at Industry City (220 36th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 260-9979). Web: www.lightindustry.org. For info, e-mail awortzel@citytech.cuny.edu.

### WEDNESDAY March 4

**Price is right**  
Despite the plethora of reality shows depicting the lush lives of teenagers and billionaires, Richard Price's latest book "Lush Life" is nothing like that. It's a thriller, a mystery story that involves a holdup and a murder. If this book is lush in anything, it's in Lower East Side culture. Get out and see this American (and New York) legend tonight in Cobble Hill (whose culture beats the Lower East Side any day).

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7 pm, BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). Web: bookcourt.org. Free.

### THURSDAY March 5

**Little house**  
What could be better than statuesque blondes and three midgets in a great Ibsen play? Nothing, according to our critic, who caught the "Mabou Mines Doll-house" show at St. Ann's last week and hasn't stopped talking about this deconstructed "Doll's House" every since.

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8 pm, St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). Tickets, \$35-\$55.

# THE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**SAT. FEB. 28**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING: Free. Noon-1:30 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

**DISCOVERY TOUR:** Meet birds and other wildlife on this walk, guided by a naturalist. Free. 3 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).

**PERFORMANCE**  
THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD": \$30-\$90. 2 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

THEATER, "THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA": Live actors and puppets interpret the classic story by Federico Garcia Lorca. \$5-\$25. 3 pm and 8 pm. Salem Lutheran Church (450 67th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173). www.norwalkcommunitytheater.com.

**BROKEN REED SAXAPHONE QUARTET:** World premiere of Charley Geary's "A Walk of Led Zeppelin." Free. 3 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch (280 Cadman Place West at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 677-4650).

**LAVA DANCE:** All-women dance company premieres "we become," a collaboration with singer-songwriter Josh Rager and visual artist Nancy Brooks Brady. \$20. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum Fourth Floor, at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816.

4816. www.gowanus.com.

**SHAKESPEARE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE":** \$35-\$50. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org.

THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE": Deconstructed version of "A Doll's House." \$35-\$55. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). www.stannwarehouse.org.

**PERCUSSION CONCERT:** LORO 2.4 performs original percussion works. \$10 (\$5 students and seniors). 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory Concert Hall (158 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (212) 229-3370). www.brooklynconservatory.com.

**CLASSICAL MUSIC:** Works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Britten and Shostakovich. \$35 (\$20 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083). www.bargemusic.org.

**PUCONI OPERA:** OperaGognyh's "Sue Angelica." \$20. 8 pm. McCann Memorial Theater (188 Berry St. between N. Third and Fourth streets in Williamsburg). www.operaogonyh.com.

THEATER, "CHUCK CHUCK CHUCK": Multi-media piece based on William Faulkner's novel "As I Lay Dying." Presented by Immediate Medium. \$12. 8:30 pm. The Collapsible House (146 Metropolitan Ave. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (212) 696-7227). www.immediatemedium.com.

**SALES AND MARKETS**  
WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET: Free. 11 am-6 pm. (76 Front St. at Washington Street in Court and Adams streets in Downtown, (718) 802-3839).

Community Board 10, Police and Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. On the agenda: Report on safety modifications on the Buxley pipeline. 7 pm. Community Board 10 Office (819 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827).

Park Slope Civic Council. Annual forum. 7 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4300).

Friends of Carroll Park. Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. The Park House (Smith Street between Carroll and President streets in Carroll Gardens). For info, e-mail friends@carrollpark@yahoo.com.

So far as event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

## CIVIC CALENDAR

**TUES, MARCH 3**  
Community Board 2, Economic Development and Job Creation Committee. Monthly meeting. 4 pm. Long Island University (1 University Pl. at Flatbush and DeKalb avenues in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410).

**WED, MARCH 4**  
City Planning Commission. On the agenda: David Walentas's Dock Street project. Noon. Department of City Planning (22 Reade St. at Elm Street in Manhattan, (212) 720-3471).

Community Board 2, Health, Environment and Social Services Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm. Brooklyn Hospital (121 DeKalb Ave. at St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410).

**THURS, MARCH 5**  
School governance. Borough President Markowitz hosts meeting. 6 pm. Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St. between Court and Adams streets in Downtown, (718) 802-3839).

Community Board 10, Police and Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. On the agenda: Report on safety modifications on the Buxley pipeline. 7 pm. Community Board 10 Office (819 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827).

Park Slope Civic Council. Annual forum. 7 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4300).

Friends of Carroll Park. Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. The Park House (Smith Street between Carroll and President streets in Carroll Gardens). For info, e-mail friends@carrollpark@yahoo.com.

So far as event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

**BNP Newspaper of the Year 2007**

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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**BAY RIDGE** Bay Ridge Paper, BoroPark Paper  
**KENSINGTON/MIDWOOD** Kensington Paper, Midwood Paper, Ocean Parkway Paper  
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# 'Winter' wonder

## Shakespeare's 'Tale' is a hit at BAM

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

**T**hough performed by the exact same cast, "The Winter's Tale" now at the Brooklyn Academy of Music through March 8, is every bit as delightful as its counterpart, "The Cherry Orchard," was dreadful.

The single greatest embodiment of this transformation is the American actor Ethan Hawke. As the proto-Bolshevik student in the earlier Chekhov play, Hawke skittered and skulked like a ghost with a case of bedbugs. But in "The Winter's Tale," again under director Sam Mendes, Hawke is a man reborn.

Cast as the rogue Autolycus, Hawke steals every scene in the second half of the play as easily as he steals all the other characters' wallets, accompanying himself on a beat-up guitar all the while. Hawke's levity provides a modicum of relief from a first half heavy on the great Shakespearean themes. To recap, Sicilian King Leontes the excellent Brit, Simon Russell Beale suspects that his wife, Hermione (the equally excellent, and equally British, Rebecca Hall) is cheating on him with his pal, the king of Bohemia, Polixenes (the not-so-good Josh Hamilton).



Rambling man: Ethan Hawke excels as the rogue in "The Winter's Tale."

### THEATER

"The Winter's Tale" runs Feb. 28, March 1, 4-6, 8 at 7:30 p.m., and March 7 at 2 p.m. at BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place, (718) 636-4100).

In short order, Leontes wrongfully accuses his wife publicly, sends her to prison, plots the murder of his friend, kills his son and exiles the child he believes illegitimate

to a certain death. And in this play, the "Bridge Project" actors seem to be cast properly. Hawke, wasted as a prim estate manager in "The Cherry Orchard," positively blooms as the wronged queen; and Beale, who was the bright spot in "The Cherry Orchard," is even brighter in a role that calls for humor, pathos, egomania and disgrace. In short, the kind of night at the theater that only a great Shakespeare play, with a great cast, can deliver.

## Brooklyn Heights Jewish International Film Festival

At Cong. B'nai Avraham • 117 Remsen Street (bet Clinton & Henry St)

**Blessed is the Match: The Life and Times of Hannah Senesh (2009)**  
Director: Roberta Grossman  
85 minutes  
Sunday March 22 7pm  
Narrated by Juan Aron, Blessed Is the Match is the first documentary feature about Hannah Senesh, the World War II hero and diarist who became a partisan resistance fighter. Hannah joined a mission to rescue Jews in her native Hungary. Shockingly, it was the only military rescue mission for Jews during the Holocaust. Hannah parachuted behind enemy lines, was captured, tortured and ultimately executed by the Nazis.

**Orthodox Stance**  
Director: Jason Mutt  
80 minutes  
Sunday April 5 7pm  
For the last 60 years, the term "Jewish boxer" has been an oxymoron. But Dmitry Salda, a 24-year-old Russian immigrant is making history as a top professional boxer and a religiously observant Jew. While providing an intimate, Syrian long look at the trials and tribulations faced by an up-and-coming professional boxer, ORTHODOX STANCE is a portrait of seemingly incompatible cultures and characters working together to support Dmitry's rare and remarkable devotion to both Orthodox Judaism and the pursuit of a professional boxing title.

**HAG: The Story of the Hasidic Actors' Guild**  
Director: Yisroel Lifschutz  
90 minutes  
Sunday March 29 7pm  
Hollywood sect symbol, he's hip, he's helpful and he's Hasidic: Yisroel Lifschutz is the go-to guy for Hollywood movie-makers needing a link to New York's ultra-Orthodox Jewish community. Playing the coach of the Hasidic baseball team in "The Chosen," He's also been in "A Stranger Among Us," a movie in "A Price Above Rubies" and hundreds more roles. Lifschutz is the founder of the Hasidic Actors' Guild (HAG). Lifschutz has won himself a slew of minor movie and TV parts from directors wanting a real Hasid to lend authenticity to a scene.

Admission: \$5  
Reservation Requested / Walk-ins Welcome  
Contact: Festival curator Simcha Weinstein  
(718) 596-4940 ext. 15  
Email: rabbis@pratt.edu www.bnaivrahams.com



(At left) Hanco, owner of the eponymous Vietnamese sandwich chain. (At right) Loren Mullins shows off the lasagna sandwich from the Crooked Tail Cafe.



## The Slope is sandwiched

Park Slope is quite literally on a roll.

Perhaps it's the poor economy or perhaps it's just something far more primal, but two sandwich shops are now sandwiching the neighborhood — the Crooked Tail Cafe on Third Avenue and the Hanco's Vietnamese Sandwich shop on Seventh Avenue.

Crooked Tail Cafe opened at the corner of President Street two weeks ago and is already earning fans for its uniquely comforting specialty — a lasagna Bolognese sandwich (\$5 on a roll, \$6.50 on a hero).

Co-owner Louis Turko says there's nothing better, especially paired with one of his fine coffees.

Meanwhile, the Hanco's

chain has expanded from its base on Bergen Street in Boerum Hill to its larger satellite in the old Tea Lounge space at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 10th Street.

All its fine sandwiches are \$7. Start with the classic, which features that uniquely Vietnamese combination of pork, ham, roasted ground pork, pickled vegetables and mayo — all on a crisp French baguette (the one benefit of France's failed efforts in Indochina).

Hanco's also has a wide selection of bubble teas, all around \$4.

Crooked Tail Cafe (272 Third Ave. at President Street, (718) 852-1414); Hanco's (350 Seventh Ave. at 10th Street, (718) 499-8081).

— Ben Muesig

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**KLOMPCHING GALLERY:** *Visual Morphology*—Group Exhibition

**UMBRAGE GALLERY:** *Eddie Adams: Vietnam*

**POWERHOUSE ARENA:** *Latinos In Literature*, Reading And Talk

**THE A.I.R. GALLERY:** *Furthermore*, curated by Lily Wei

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**9 DAYS...**  
Continued from page 8

Park. Please reserve in advance. \$15 (\$10 children). 1145 pm. Grand Army Plaza entrance, (718) 835-2151, www.wildmammal.com.

**DISCOVERY TOUR:** Meet birds and other wildlife on this walk, guided by a naturalist. Free. 3 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "THE WINTER'S TALE":** 2 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**THEATER, "THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA":** 2 pm and 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**FOLK DANCE:** "Dancing the Dead" showcases the various dances of death, morning, and remembrance practiced in Brooklyn's immigrant communities. Free. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4600, www.brooklyncenter.org.

**CLASSICAL MUSIC:** Works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Britten and Shostakovich. \$35 (\$20 students). 3 pm. Bangor Music Pullen Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2033, www.bangormusic.org.

**THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE":** 4 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**MUSIC, TIME FOR THREE:** String trio combines elements of classical, country, western, gypsy and jazz. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope), (718) 230-2100.

**PUCCHINI OPERA:** 6 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**LAVA DANCE:** 7 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD":** 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET:** See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**FLA MARKET:** Free. 9 am-3 pm. St. Felix Center (138 Bay 20th St. at Bath Avenue in Bensonhurst, (718) 236-3372).

**OTHER**

**SILENT FILM, "THE EXTRA GIRL":** Live piano accompaniment by Stuart Coleman. Free. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope), (718) 230-2100.

**FILM, "DILLINGER IS DEAD":** 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**READING, LANA STANGER ROSS:** Authors of "Guns Undergarments for Women." Free. 7 pm. Freebird Books (123 Columbia St. at Kane Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 643-8484, www.freebirdbooks.com).

**READING, CHRIS OTT:** Author of book on Jay Division's "Unknown Pleasures" speaks about the band's new found alibi. \$10. 7 pm. Barbes (376 North St. at Sixth Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 945-9177, www.barbestbrooklyn.com).

**MON, MAR. 2**

**CHRONIC FATIGUE SUPPORT GROUP:** 1 pm. New York Methodist Hospital (506 Sixth St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 780-5301).

**FILM, "DILLINGER IS DEAD":** 4:30, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**TALK, SACRED ART AND MUSIC:** Dr. Francis J. Greene speaks about artistic representations of St. Paul. Pipe organ and choral accompaniment. Free. 7:30 pm. St. Francis Xavier Church (225 Sixth Ave. at Canal Street in Park Slope, (718) 638-1880).

**TUES, MAR. 3**

**FILM, "DILLINGER IS DEAD":** 4:30, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**ROBOT PERFORMANCE ART:** Audre Wozniak's "A Re-enactment of the Battle of the Pyramids" features reconfigured robotic toys performing military maneuvers. \$7. 7:30 pm. Light Industry at Industry City (220 30th St. between Second and Third avenues, 16th floor in Sunset Park, (718) 260-5970, www.lightindustry.org).

**THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE":** 8 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**WED, MAR. 4**

**FILM, "DILLINGER IS DEAD":** 4:30, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**FILM, "ALL OF US":** Documentary about black women and HIV. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope), (718) 230-2100.

**READING, RICHARD PRICE:** Author of "Lush Life." Free. 7 pm. Book Court (143 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 718-3077, www.bookcourt.org).

**SHAKESPEARE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE":** 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**BATISHEVA DANCE COMPANY:** Choreographer Chad Nahai's "Miles." \$20-\$35. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 634-4101, www.bam.org).

**THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE":** 8 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**THURS, MAR. 5**

**FILM, "DILLINGER IS DEAD":** 4:30, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**ART OPENING:** "Night Moves—Exploring the Horizon," group photograph by Free. 6 pm. Safe Gallery (1111 Front St. at Washington Street, Suite 214 in DUMBO, (718) 782-5920, www.safegallery.com).

**ART OPENING:** Photographer Eddie Adams' "Vietnam." Free. 6 pm. Umbrage Gallery (111 Front St. at Washington Street, Suite 208 in DUMBO, (212) 796-2707, www.umbragegallery.com).

**ANN RABSON SINGS THE BLUES:**



They don't suck: Suckers, a local band with a funny, Jonathan Richman thing going on, will perform at Coco 66 in Greenpoint on Friday, March 6.

**http://**  
Find more Brooklyn Nightlife options at BrooklynPaper.com/Nightlife

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**ANN RABSON SINGS THE BLUES:**

**TALE:** 2 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**THEATER, "ARENIS AND OLD LACE":** 3 pm and 8 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**MUSIC, FIRST SATURDAY:** Host of activities celebrating Women's History Month, including live performance, film, art and book discussion, and a dance party. Free. 5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org).

**MUSIC, "GIANNI SCHICCHI":** Regina Opera Company presents the Puccini opera, plus opera excerpts. \$20 (\$15 seniors, \$5 under). 7 pm. Regina Hall (65th Street at 12th Avenue in Dyker Heights, (718) 232-3555).

**THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD":** 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**BATISHEVA DANCE COMPANY:** 7:30 pm. See Wednesday, March 4.

**DANCE, FIRST WEEKENDS:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 6.

**MUSIC, HOLLY NEAR:** With Emma's Revolution. \$20. 8 pm. First Unitarian Church (Pierrepont Street at Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 288-5994).

**JAZZ:** Connection Works Ensemble and the Wyllife Gordon Quartet. \$15 (\$10 under). 8 pm. Brooklyn Museum (401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street in Boerum Hill, www.connectionworks.org).

**MALE CHOIR OF ST. PETERSBURG:** Program of sacred music, folk songs and works by Tchaikovsky, Glinka and Dargomyzhsky. \$30. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4600, www.brooklyncenter.org).

**JAZZ:** Harris Eesteradt's Woodblock Prints and the Nare Woolley Trio. \$10 (suggested). 9 pm and 10 pm. Beam Music Studio (168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, www.beambrooklyn.com).

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET:** 11 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**OTHER**

**OPEN STUDIOS:** Free. Noon-8 pm. Smack Mellon (92 Plymouth St. at Washington Street in DUMBO, (347-4761), www.smackmellon.org).

**RAISING BILINGUAL CHILDREN:** Barbara Zurer Pearson, author of "Raising a Bilingual Child" speaks, followed by OGA session and refreshments. \$10. 4 pm. Chiva Church (Cobble Hill) (326 Clinton St. at Kane Street in Cobble Hill, (717) 609-9899, langagelids.earthlink.com).

**DINNER DANCE:** Church celebrates 100 years at its present location. Cocktail hour followed by dinner and dancing. \$50. 6 pm. Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (155 Centre St. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 625-1161).

**SUN, MAR. 8**

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "THE CHERRY ORCHARD":** 2 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**MUSIC, "GIANNI SCHICCHI":** 3 pm. See Saturday, March 7.

**THEATER, "MABOU MINES DOLL-HOUSE":** 4 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

**SHAKESPEARE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE":** 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Feb. 28.

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ATLANTIC YARDS

COURTSIDE SEATS

# Ratner wins a big Yards case

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner scored a big win in court this week, as one of the state's highest courts brushed aside opponents' claim that the mega-project should be scrapped because its environmental review was a "sham."

In a unanimous ruling handed down Thursday, the Appellate Division affirmed a similar verdict made last January in state Supreme Court.

"The 3,500-page final [environmental impact statement] impressively detailed analyses of the project's anticipated environmental impacts in 16 separately identified areas," read the four-justice panel's decision.

The ruling also backed the lower court's refusal to interfere with legislative authority on issues of land use.

"It is by now a familiar refrain that [courts] may not disturb an agency determination as substantively flawed unless it is affected by an error of law, arbitrary and capricious, or constitutes an abuse of discretion."

"Courts... are bound to defer to the public purpose findings of the legislature and its agencies," the justices ruled.

The courts' long-stated reluctance to examine the Empire State Development Corporation's decision-making process extended to opponents' other main argument that the ESDC had wrongly concluded that blocks surrounding the rail yard at the heart of the project were blighted.

Real-estate values in those areas were actually soaring at the time the project was unveiled and hyped as a way of eliminating blight.

"There is no dispute that this previously designated area is, in fact blighted," the ruling stated.

Jeff Baker, a lawyer for a 26-plaintiff group that includes Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the Sierra Club, many block associations, the New York Public Interest Research Group and the Zen Environmental Studies Institute, said he would appeal to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals, to examine the ESDC's blight finding.

"This ruling basically said, 'If you have any reason to back up your blight determination, that's good enough,'" Baker said. "But that's not true. Yes, courts have ruled that they must defer to ESDC on whether the project serves a valid public purpose, but courts do not have to show deference to the underlying factual determination that there is blight."

Baker praised a concurring decision in the case written by James Catterson, who wrote that state law is "ultimately being used as a tool

of the developer to displace and destroy neighborhoods that are 'underutilized.'"

"There is sufficient evidence of 'blight,' Catterson wrote, "[b]ut I reject the ma-

jority's core reasoning, that a perfunctory 'blight study' performed years after the conception of a vast development project should serve as the rational basis for a de-

termination that a neighborhood is indeed blighted."

Baker saw an opening. "I think the Court of Appeals will be willing to consider ruling that the courts do not need

to be a rubber stamp on blight rulings," he said. "Courts can examine the facts and not just defer to the state agency's unfounded analysis."

Ratner disagreed.

"Today's decision speaks comprehensively about the review and approval steps followed for this project and unanimously validates the process," he said in a statement.

He also claimed to be "ready and eager to break ground," though the developer has stated that the current economic downturn made him unable to build now.

Ratner's score has skyrocketed since the project was announced in 2003 and he has taken most of the development off the table, leaving only a basketball arena and two residential buildings as the first phase of a project that once called for 16 skyscrapers.

Opponents have called for the project to be re-examined in light of an economic downturn that decreases its likelihood of completion. The court ruling, in fact, suggested that policy makers might want to do just that.

"[The plaintiffs'] arguments [represent] legitimate concerns as to the effect of a project of such scale," the court ruled. "This multi-billion dollar project remains... a matter of social and political volition, [so] the controlling judgments as to its merits are the province of the policy-making branches of government."

Thursday's ruling leaves one major case pending. On Monday, the Appellate Division's Second Department heard oral arguments in a case that challenges the state's use of its condemnation power to clear land and hand it over to Ratner. That ruling is expected this spring.

## Lawsuit asks Bruce: How much profit will you make on Yards?

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

A lawsuit against the Atlantic Yards mega-project now hinges on whether the state agency that approved the project can back up its claim that the development is a benefit to the public even if the agency never actually determined the profit that private developer Bruce Ratner is expected to reap.

In Monday's oral arguments in a case brought by nine residential and commercial owners and tenants who are facing forced eviction to make room for Ratner's 22-acre project, plaintiff's lawyer Matthew Brinkerhoff repeatedly argued that the state never examined whether Ratner's profit was so large that the promised public benefit of the basketball, office and resi-



Plaintiffs' attorney Matt Brinkerhoff on Monday.

dential development is merely "incidental."

Justice Robert Spolozino of the Appellate Division

appeared sympathetic to Brinkerhoff's argument, asking ESDC lawyers several times to explain how the agency determined that the project has an "overwhelming" public benefit if the ESDC had not measured the private benefit to Ratner.

At one point, he interrupted ESDC lawyer Charles Webb, who was trying to make the state's central argument, namely that the plaintiff's filed their case late.

"Sorry, but can you address [plaintiff's] point that ESDC never articulated a balancing of private versus public ben-

efit?" Spolozino asked.

Webb responded that there is no requirement for the agency to know how much the private entity would benefit. He added that the public benefits of the project — a basketball arena, 2,250 units of taxpayer-subsidized below-market-rate housing, open space and the elimination of "blight" — were so apparent that they did not need to be balanced against Ratner's expected profits.

After the 30-minute hearing, Brinkerhoff said he was pleased that Spolozino homed in on the public versus private benefit question.

"The ESDC never quantified in any way what Ratner's private benefit is, so there's no way for the public to compare the private benefit and the public benefit," he said.

The plaintiffs' case also hinges on the state Constitution. In Monday's arguments, Brinkerhoff reiterated his contention that Article 18, section 6 requires that the occupancy projects that receive state funds "shall be restricted to persons of low income."

In Ratner's case, hundreds of millions of direct state and city infrastructure funds, plus hundreds of millions of indirect tax subsidies, are being doled out by the public. ESDC lawyer Philip Karmel retorted that "if Section 6 applies to any project with a housing component, then the state would be able to address blighted conditions only with low-income housing."

As such, he called an arena "perfectly reasonable" for state funding.

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# New Cyclone will manage

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

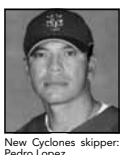
The new manager of the Brooklyn Cyclones spent his entire playing career in the minor leagues.

The team's new batting coach was a career 235-hitter in his seven years as a bench-warmer in the bigs.

And the new pitching coach never played pro ball at all.

So hey hello, sports fans to the coaching staff for the 2009 Brooklyn Cyclones: manager Pedro Lopez, hitting coach Jack Vigna and pitching coach Rick Tomlin.

Lopez, 40, will be the team's seventh manager, succeeding the legendary skipper Edgar



New Cyclones skipper: Pedro Lopez.

Alfonzo, who played for the team in its only championship in 2001, and then returned for a second tenure in 2007 and 2008 that was, um, less successful. Fonzie, who always said he'd rather coach in Brooklyn than anywhere else

(including in Queens!), will head the Mets' Class A affiliate in Savannah, where he'll pilot the pesky Sun Dogs.

It will be Lopez's second season with the Mets organization. Last year, he was a coach at Savannah, a team that lost 14 of its last 16 games. Before that, he was in the Texas Rangers' farm system.

In his playing days, Lopez was the 243rd round pick of the San Diego Padres in 1988, but never advanced higher than Class A.A. before retiring from the diamond in 2000.

Voght is in his fourth season with the Mets organization, and Tomlin is a rookie with the Amazons. He did have various roles in the Yankees' minor-league system

from 1996-2004.

The lack of a Met pedigree is a change for the Cyclones, who have often been managed by former Mets, including Tim Lincecum, Howard Johnson and Mookie Wilson. Nonetheless, Cyclones' General Manager Steve Cohen said he was "excited" by the new staff.

"Each year, we have been fortunate to have coaches who work tirelessly, both on the field and in the community, and we look forward to continuing that tradition," he said.

The Cyclones season ticket and game package plans for the 2009 season are available now at [www.brooklyncyclones.com](http://www.brooklyncyclones.com) or by calling (718) 372-5596.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS



Berkley Carroll School students recently performed at the Prospect Park Residence, brightening the day for senior citizens with music, dancing, music and comedy.

Christina Bandini stepped lively to "Real in the Sun," Julia Fife (above) played Schumann's "Menuet" on her flute, and Miranda Cornell and Emily Bibby (above) clown around while singing "Together at Last" from "Annie."

The Prospect Park Residence offers the finest in senior living, with a home-like setting, rooftop garden, a

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# Heart Attack Heart Failure Pneumonia

**According to a Medicare study, Maimonides is the only hospital in the nation to perform better than the national rate in these three areas of patient care.**

Hospitalcompare.com is a U.S. government website that helps the public review the quality of care in hospitals.

According to their 2008 study of the nearly 5,000 hospitals in the United States, only nine hospitals performed better than the national rate in treating heart attacks; 41 in treating heart failure; and 41 in treating pneumonia.

Only one hospital was listed in this top rating for all three categories: Maimonides Medical Center.



**Maimonides**  
Medical Center  
Passionate about medicine.  
Compassionate about people.

**Maimonides. The Brooklyn hospital  
with the national reputation.**

**For more information, visit [www.maimonidesmed.org](http://www.maimonidesmed.org) or call (888) MMC-DOCS.**